

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

NOTES ON THREE OREGON LEPTURINE
CERAMBYCIDAE (COLEOPTERA)

Cortodera militaris constans L. & C.—Linsley and Chemsak (1972, Univ. Calif. Publ. Entomol. 69: 109-111) segregated *C. militaris* into three subspecies, listing only the nominate form as occurring in the Pacific Northwest. Concurrently, they described the subspecies *C. m. constans* from northeastern California, which might suggest that this taxon also inhabits adjacent regions of Oregon. Collections verifying this assumption have recently been made in Lake Co.: (6 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀) 3.3 and 5.4 mi SE Quartz Mt., VI-16-1977 on *Ranunculus occidentalis* Nutt. (R. L. Penrose); (3 ♂♂, 15 ♀♀) 14.8 mi N. Lakeview, VI-14-1977 on *R. occidentalis* and *Potentilla gracilis* Dougl. ex Hook. (R. L. Penrose); (13 ♂♂, 30 ♀♀) VI-8-1978 on *R. occidentalis* (R. L. Penrose and R. L. Westcott). Although these specimens are clearly best placed with *constans* (on the basis of anatomical similarities and geographic proximity), they exhibit more variation in elytral coloration than is evident in Modoc County material. The name *constans* was given on the basis of the uniformity of the type series, i.e., "all individuals black with red humeri." In the Lake County material cited above, 60 specimens (86%) are typical *constans*, 9 (13%) have elytra brown/vittate and 1 (1%) is wholly black. Inclusion of Oregon populations would therefore require a redefinition of *constans* to encompass predominately black populations in which the red humeral condition is *usually* expressed. It should also be noted that four of the six specimens from Quartz Mt., in marked contrast to other Lake County specimens, have the reddish mark vaguely defined and restricted to the humeral angle. This reduction in maculation size, combined with the occurrence of a wholly black individual could indicate that transitional populations between *constans* and typical *militaris* remain to be discovered in the Klamath Basin. Although much remains to be done to unravel the population structure of this species, specimens at hand suggest a divergence in melanistic tendencies on opposite sides of the Cascade Range. Whereas *constans* is typically melanic, black individuals comprise only 20% of the beetles examined from western Oregon. Another interesting phenomenon is found in the distribution of local populations with red and black individuals within the range of the nominate subspecies. All bicolored specimens seen are from Washington (Tacoma, Olympia and Chehalis), and Linsley and Chemsak's statement that black *militaris* tend to have reddish humeri would seem to be valid only as regards specimens from the northern portions of the subspecies range.

Typocerus serraticornis Linsley and Chemsak.—Recently described from specimens collected in Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Idaho (1976, Univ.

Calif. Publ. Entomol. 80: 69), this species also occurs in southeastern Oregon. A series was collected in Harney Co., Little Cottonwood Creek, VI-6-1978 (R. L. Penrose and R. L. Westcott). Beetles were sporadically abundant in the flowers of *Sphaeralcea grossulariaefolia* (Hook. and Arn.) Rydb. (currant-leaved desert mallow) which was growing intermixed with the larval host, Sand Dropseed (*Oryzopsis hymenoides* (Roem. and Schult.) Ricker). Occasional *Typocerus* were also taken on flowers of *Eriogonum ovalifolium* Nutt. An additional collection was made 22 mi NW of Denio Junction, Humboldt Co., Nevada, on June 7. At this site, beetles were quite abundant but very localized, nearly all having been encountered on a single 165 square meter area of sand, covered almost exclusively with *O. hymenoides*. They were observed flying slowly about, and sitting and mating on this grass. Occasionally, females were noted crawling on the surface of the sand around the plant bases in search of oviposition sites. Larvae were found at both localities boring in culm bases, below the soil surface, indicating at least a two-year life cycle.

Ortholeptura obscura (Swaine and Hopping).—There have been but three prior references to this species, all of which are descriptive (Swaine and Hopping, 1928, Nat. Mus. Canada Bull. 52: 56; Hatch, 1971, Univ. Wash. Publ. Biol. 16: 132; Linsley and Chemsak, 1976, Univ. Calif. Publ. Entomol. 80: 133). These references are apparently based upon a single male and female specimen. The literature has been reflective of specimen availability and I have seen only two specimens of *obscura* (both from northeastern Oregon) in Pacific Northwest collections during the past decade. Due to the rarity of this species, and the absence of any published biological information, the following observations are presented. On July 25, 1978, five specimens were collected at Wallowa Lake State Park, Wallowa County, Oregon, as follows: 1 ♂ was attracted to white light; 1 ♀ was found clinging to the underside of a freshly fallen branch of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco (Douglas Fir); 1 teneral adult ♂ and 2 pupae, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, were collected from pupal cells in the dry, hard outer sapwood near the top of an old Douglas Fir stump. A single ♂ was swept from foliage of Snowberry, *Symphoricarpos* sp. at Field Spring State Park, Asotin County, Washington, VIII-30-1966 by R. L. Westcott.

Special thanks is extended to Dr. J. D. Lattin, Curator, Oregon State University Entomological Collection, Corvallis, for permission to study specimens of *C. militaris* present in the recently acquired M. Hatch Collection.

Richard L. Penrose, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem, Oregon 97310.